UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
LIMITED

A/C.2/50/L.17
15 November 1995

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Fiftieth session
SECOND COMMITTEE
Agenda item 95 (a)

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION: TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

Philippines* and Colombia**: draft resolution

International trade and development

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the Developing Countries, 1/ the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade, 2/ the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s, 3/ the Programme of Action for the Least

---

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

** On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries.

1/ Resolution S-18/3, annex.

2/ Resolution 45/199, annex.

3/ Resolution 46/151, annex, sect. II.

95-35662 (E) 151195 161195

Developed Countries for the 1990s, 4/ the Cartagena Commitment, 5/ Agenda 21 6/ and the various agreements that provide an overall policy framework for sustained economic growth and sustainable development in order to address the challenges of the 1990s,

Recalling its resolutions 1995 (XIX) of 30 December 1964, as amended, 7/ on the establishment of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development as an organ of the General Assembly, 47/183 of 22 December 1992 on the eighth session of the Conference and 48/55 of 10 December 1993 and 49/99 of 19 December 1994 on international trade and development,

Welcoming the appointment of the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development,

Noting the progress made by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development in the implementation of the outcome of its eighth session, in particular its contribution to trade and development,

Emphasizing the importance of an open, rule-based, equitable, secure, non-discriminatory, transparent and predictable multilateral trading system,

Also emphasizing that a favourable and conducive international economic and financial environment and a positive investment climate are necessary for the economic recovery and growth of the world economy, in particular for the sustained economic growth and sustainable development of the developing countries,

Welcoming the successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations at the Ministerial Meeting of the Trade Negotiations Committee, held at Marrakesh, Morocco, from 12 to 15 April 1994, and noting that the Uruguay Round agreements 8/ represent a historic achievement, which is

---

4/ Report of the Second United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Paris, 3-14 September 1990 (A/CONF.147/18), part one.

5/ See Proceedings of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, Eighth Session, Report and Annexes (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.II.D.5), part one, sect A.

6/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992, vol. I, Resolutions Adopted by the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8), resolution 1, annex II.

7/ See resolutions 2904 A (XXVII), 31/2 A and B and 34/3.

8/ Legal Instruments Embodying the Results of the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations, done at Marrakesh on 15 April 1994 (GATT secretariat publication, Sales No. GATT/1994-7).

expected to contribute to strengthening the world economy and to lead to more trade, investment, employment and income growth throughout the world and in particular to the promotion of sustained economic growth and sustainable development in the developing countries,

Noting the assessment and recommendations adopted at the Mid-term Global Review of the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s, held in New York from 25 September to 6 October 1995,

Noting that the Uruguay Round agreements should lead to, inter alia, a substantial liberalization of international trade, the strengthening of multilateral rules and disciplines to ensure more stability and predictability in trade relations, the establishing of rules and disciplines in new areas and noting the founding of a new institutional framework in the form of the World Trade Organization, with an integrated dispute settlement mechanism which should prevent the application of unilateral actions against international trade rules,

Recognizing that the developing countries have made a major contribution to the success of the Uruguay Round, in particular by accepting the challenges of trade liberalization reforms and measures, and stressing that there is a need for positive efforts designed to ensure that developing countries, especially the least developed among them, secure a share in the growth in international trade commensurate with their economic development needs,

Recognizing also that open subregional and regional economic integration and cooperation processes among developing countries impart substantial dynamism to global trade and enhance trade and development possibilities for all countries,

Recognizing further the possible adverse effects of the implementation of the Uruguay Round agreements for the least developed countries, African countries, small island developing States and the net food-importing countries because of their weak physical and institutional infrastructure and their weak production and export structures and the need to assist them, as appropriate, to fully benefit from the implementation of the Uruguay Round agreements,

Welcoming the generous offer of the Government of South Africa to act as host for the ninth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development,

Recognizing the role of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development in identifying and analysing new and emerging issues in the international trade agenda and the expertise of the Conference in exploring policy options and in building consensus on such issues, as well as its specific role in providing a development perspective to international trade debates and negotiations,

Noting the importance of the inaugural Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization, scheduled to take place in Singapore in December 1996, for all countries for stock taking and for reviewing and evaluating the implementation of the Uruguay Round agreements,

Stressing the need to promote, facilitate and finance access to and the transfer of environmentally sound technologies and the corresponding know-how to the developing countries, on favourable terms, including concessional and preferential terms, taking into account the special needs of the developing countries in the implementation of Agenda 21,

Taking note with satisfaction of the recommendation on trade, environment and sustainable development made by the Commission on Sustainable Development at its third session, 9/ and recognizing, in the spirit of a new global partnership for sustainable development, the need for a balanced and integrated approach to environment, trade and development issues,

1. Takes note of the reports of the Trade and Development Board on the second part of its forty-first session 10/ and the first part of its forty-second session, 11/ and calls upon all States to take appropriate action to implement the outcome of those sessions;

2. Takes note with appreciation of the Trade and Development Report, 1995, 12/ and recognizes the contribution such reports have made to the international trade and development dialogue;

3. Emphasizes the importance of follow-up and monitoring of the implementation of the policies and measures contained in the Cartagena Commitment, adopted by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development at its eighth session, held at Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, from 8 to 25 February 1992;

4. Stresses the urgent need to continue trade liberalization, including liberalization through a substantial reduction of tariff and other barriers, in particular non-tariff barriers, to trade and the elimination of discriminatory and protectionist practices in international trade relations, and to improve access to the markets of all countries, in particular those of the developed countries, in order to generate sustained economic growth and sustainable development for the benefit of all countries, in particular the developing countries;

5. Stresses also the importance of the urgent and full implementation of the agreements contained in the Final Act Embodying the Results of the Uruguay

---

9/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1995, Supplement No. 12 (E/1995/32), chap. I, paras. 47-72.

10/ A/50/15 (Vol. I).

11/ A/50/15 (Vol. II).

12/ United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.II.D.16.

Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations and the significance of the entering into force of the Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization on 1 January 1995; 13/

6. Emphasizes the importance of the full implementation of the provisions contained in the Final Act that confer special and differential treatment for developing countries, including giving special attention to the situation of the least developed countries and the net food-importing countries;

7. Invites the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development at its ninth session to transmit its assessment of the Uruguay Round agreements from a development perspective to the Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization to be held in Singapore in December 1996;

8. Endorses the provisional agenda for the ninth session of the UNCTAD, approved by the Trade and Development Board during the second part of its forty-first session; 14/

9. Emphasizes the need for continued review and evaluation of the implementation of the Uruguay Round agreements to ensure that the benefits of the evolving multilateral trade system promote sustained economic growth and sustainable development, in particular for the developing countries, and notes the role of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the World Trade Organization in this regard;

10. Emphasizes also the significance of the Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization in helping to set the future direction of a rule-based multilateral trading system;

11. Deplores any attempt to bypass or undermine multilaterally agreed measures of trade liberalization, through resort to unilateral actions, over and above those agreed to in the Uruguay Round, and deplores the use of environmental and social concerns for protectionist purposes;

12. Recognizes that, in order to promote sustained economic growth and sustainable development, environment and trade policies should be made mutually supportive and, in this context, takes note with satisfaction of the ongoing work of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development on trade and environment, in particular, the outcome of its Working Group on Trade and Environment, and notes the ongoing work of the Committee on Trade and Environment of the World Trade Organization;

13/ See Legal Instruments Embodying the Results of the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations done at Marrakesh on 15 April 1994 (GATT secretariat publication, Sales No. GATT/1994-7), vols. 1 and 27-31.

14/ A/50/15 (Vol. I), chap. I, sect. A.

13. Emphasizes the urgent need to implement the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s, taking into account the assessment and recommendations adopted at the Mid-term Global Review of the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s, held in New York from 25 September to 6 October 1995;

14. Also emphasizes the urgent need for technical and financial assistance to African countries inter alia for evaluation of the impact of the Final Act Embodying the Results of the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations and to enable them to identify and implement adaptive measures to enhance their competitiveness, including compensatory arrangements, diversification and modernization of production and export structures, and other measures, as appropriate;

15. Strongly urges preference-giving countries to improve their preferential schemes, and invites the 1996 Policy Review on the Generalized System of Preferences to recommend concrete actions with a view to offsetting the erosion of preferences, and its effects, in favour of the concerned developing countries;

16. Reaffirms the role of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development as the focal point within the United Nations for the integrated treatment of development and interrelated issues in the areas of trade, finance, technology, investment, services and sustainable development, and in this context, stresses that the creation of the World Trade Organization has reinforced the need for the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development as a policy-oriented forum with a strong development perspective;

17. Decides to enable the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to discharge its mandate fully, through the provision of adequate financial resources, making it a more effective instrument for promoting development as well as addressing trade-related development concerns of the developing countries;

18. Invites the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to consider, in close cooperation with other competent organizations, new and emerging issues on the international trade agenda with a view to fostering international consensus-building among member States in such areas as international competition policies, trade and environment, and trade and investment and, in this context, to take advantage of its specific experiences and its capacity to analyse the issues involved in an integrated manner, with special emphasis on the development requirements and implications; in this regard, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development also has a role in preparing the groundwork for further trade agreements in the appropriate forums;

19. Calls upon the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to monitor closely developments in the international trading system, in particular their implications for developing countries, and in this context, to continue to analyse measures taken to implement the Uruguay Round agreements at national and multilateral levels, the problems encountered by developing countries with implementation at the national level, and ways to make full use of new trading

opportunities and special provisions in their favour with a view to making policy recommendations in these areas;

20. Invites the secretariats of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and the World Trade Organization to develop further their working relationships, mutual cooperation and complementarity in order to assist developing countries in implementing the Uruguay Round agreements and in taking full advantage of opportunities arising therefrom, to analyse the issues involved and to assist those countries in preparing for ongoing and future trade negotiations;

21. Emphasizes the importance to the international trading system of the inclusion of all countries in multilateral trade agreements and that developing countries that are not members of the World Trade Organization should be adequately assisted in the accession process to that organization;

22. Requests the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and invites the World Trade Organization, in accordance with their respective mandates and competence and in close cooperation with other competent United Nations bodies and the regional commissions, to address trade and environment matters comprehensively and to submit, in collaboration with the Commission on Sustainable Development, a report on the question to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1997;

23. Also requests the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to continue its special role in the field of trade and environment, including the conceptual framework, policy analysis and formulations, and consensus-building, with a view to ensuring transparency and coherence in making environmental and trade policies mutually supportive;

24. Further requests the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to focus and intensify its technical assistance in the light of the Uruguay Round agreements, with the aim of increasing the capacities of developing countries, especially the least developed countries, African countries, small island developing States, and land-locked and transit developing countries, so that they may participate effectively in the international trading system;

25. Requests the Secretary-General to establish a trust fund with voluntary contributors to ensure full and effective participation of the representatives of the developing countries, particularly the least developed among them, at the ninth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, and also calls upon the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme and donor countries to make such contributions.